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## and MEMORIAL FOR JACK W. [J.W.] JONES PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT ON OCTOBER 24, 2003

## MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

Jack Wallace [J.W.] Jones was born on February 8, 1924, in Gonzales County, Texas, and passed away at the age of 79 years old on July 12, 2003, here in Shreveport. Mr. Jones was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He loved his country and served it well both during World War 2 and in the practice of law. Following World War 2, he attained a bachelor of science degree from Southwest Texas State College. After college, he worked and, as a veteran, was permitted to study law and take the Bar Exam. Mr. Jones studied law at Centenary College and then took and passed the Bar becoming licensed to practice law in this State in 1958. Mr. Jones actively practiced law locally in the law firm of Bodenheimer, Jones until he retired in 2001. Mr. Jones practiced with G.M. Bodenheimer for decades until Bodenheimer's death in 1994. Mr. Jones represented countless defendants in civil lawsuits but was known to handle select plaintiff's cases. Mr. Jones also represented Pioneer Bank, with great pride, for years.

Mr. Jones is survived by his wonderful wife of 53 years, Miss Pat Jones. He has three sons, Matt, Aubrey, and Gary. He has been blessed with several grandchildren. He was quite fond of his grand-kids and told stories about them often.

Mr. Jones loved practicing law. He became one of the most respected attorneys in the State of Louisiana. He actively practiced for more than 40 years.

Mr. Jones was a Shriner, a Mason and the past President of the Louisiana Defense Council. He was very active in the Democratic Party and worked closely with Honorable John Dixon, retired Senator J. Bennett Johnston, and Honorable Henry Politz, to name a few, in those early days to advance north Louisiana's democratic party. Mr. Jones was an active, central member of the party. A true Democrat to the end.

In his later years, I joined the law firm and was mentored by Mr. Jones on a daily, and sometimes hourly, basis. On a daily basis for years, we ate lunch with Honorable C.J. Bolin, Jack Kaplan and Leon Pliner. The elder attorneys shared many insightful and entertaining war stories. The stories always had a point and a lesson to be learned. In fact, at this time last year,

when Mr. Kaplan, among others, was remembered at this ceremony, Mr. Jones and I were here in attendance. Afterwards, Judge Bolin, Mr. Jones and I shared lunch at The Blind Tiger. Judge Bolin shared some fishing news and Mr. Jones was delighted to see his old friend.

Almost every morning during the decade we practiced law together, the morning would not be complete without a cup of coffee and a visit with Mr. Jones. One or the other of us would wonder down the hall and meet up to discuss the planned events of the day and enjoy family stories.

If Mr. Jones were here, I believe he would impart some wisdom to our newest members of the Bar. He often said that young lawyers breathe life into the profession which too often becomes stale and stodgy. I suppose it is proper to share several points of wisdom he imparted to me.

The first would be that you should show absolute candor to the court. Your role as an officer of the court is of utmost importance to the entire system of justice. The judge and your colleagues, not to mention the public and clients, must be able to rely on "your word." If you make a mistake, simply own up to it and be humble. Do not blame others. Try to always extend a hand of compassion to your opponents. Your fellow lawyers and judges are not your enemies.

Mr. Jones believed in fierce advocacy and broad cross-examination. We handled my cases and trials together in our firm. Often referred to as a "bull dog" in cross-examination, Mr. Jones pressed witnesses for the truth. Mr. Jones would frequently say that a lawyer who lacked zeal had no heart and no place in the business. He believed that a lawyer must not be afraid to take a stance, even an unpopular one.

Mr. Jones loved the practice and wanted to stay in his office and at his desk to the very end. We did our best to honor that spirit and provide a place for him as long as he was able. He bitterly fought the notion of retirement though his health had begun to fail him. He continued to visit the office regularly and attend firm luncheons and events. As so many elder lawyers strive for, Mr. Jones wanted to remain working and could not imagine life without a desk, files and phone.

I want to close by sharing the most important point. Mr. Jones was more than a mentor to me. He welcomed me to a new city. He was there as a friend and confidant when I needed one. On many more than one occasion, he helped me up and dusted me off after I went to court

as a young lawyer. He was less concerned with financial growth and more concerned with my personal growth as I matured in the practice. My family, law firm, our local Bar and State Bar have lost a great friend and advocate.

Respectfully submitted:

David A. Szwak

Bodenheimer, Jones, Szwak & Winchell, LLP